

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 4-6 and 14-17 are pending in this application, with Claims 4, 14 and 17 being independent. Claims 1-3 and 7-13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 4, 6, and 14 have been amended to improve their form and Claims 15-17 have been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

In response to the objection to the title of the invention as not being sufficiently indicative of the claimed invention, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicant has provided a new title. Applicant submits that the new title is even more clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

In response to the objection to Figure 2, while not conceding the propriety thereof, Applicant has amended this figure to add the legend --Prior Art-- thereto and provided a corrected formal drawing thereof, thereby obviating the drawing objection.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Wiegley).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance prosecution, Claims 1-3 and 7-13 have been canceled without prejudice and new Claim 17, which is a program claim corresponding to method Claim 14, has been added. Applicant submits that the remaining independent claims, Claims 1, 14, and 17 are allowable for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 4 relates to an image data recording device, comprising common key generating means for generating a common key based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device, management means for managing the common key generated by the common key generating means and the print ID transferred from the image data processing device, common key issue means for transmitting the common key generated by the common key generating means to the image data processing device, common key obtaining means for obtaining the common key corresponding to the print ID from the management means when the print ID and print control data are transmitted from the image data processing device, analyzing means for extracting encrypted print image data by analyzing a command of the print control data using the common key obtained by the common key obtaining means, decryption means for decrypting the encrypted print image data extracted by the analyzing means using a key corresponding to the print ID, and print means for recording the print image data decrypted by the decryption means on a recording medium.

Amended independent Claim 14 relates to a method for controlling an image data recording device, comprising the steps of generating a common key based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device, managing the generated common key and the print ID transferred from the image data processing device, transmitting the generated common key to the image data processing device, obtaining the common key corresponding to the print ID when the print ID and print control data are transmitted from the the image data processing device, extracting encrypted print image data by analyzing a command of the print control data using the obtained common key, decrypting the

extracted, encrypted print image data using a key obtained from the print ID, and recording the decrypted print image data in a storage medium.

In contrast, the patent to Wiegley is not understood to disclose or suggest the concept of generating a common key based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device, as recited by independent Claims 4 and 14.

As a result, this patent is also not understood to disclose or suggest the managing of this common key and the print ID transferred from the image data processing device, the transmitting of this common key to the image data processing device, the obtaining of this common key corresponding to the print ID when the print ID and print control data are transmitted from the image data processing device, the extracting of encrypted print image data by analyzing a command of the print control data using this obtained common key, the decrypting of the encrypted print image data using a key corresponding to or obtained from the print ID, or the recording of the decrypted print image data on a recording medium or in a storage medium, as also recited by independent Claims 4 and 14.

The Office Action states that the common key generating means for generating the common key corresponds to the “session identifier” generating means shown in Figures 3-6. But, Figures 3-6 are not understood to show that the session identifier is generated based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device, as recited by independent Claims 4 and 14. Moreover, the text of this patent relating to these figures also is not understood to disclose or suggest that the session identifier is generated based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device, as recited by independent Claims 4 and 14. Rather, column 4, lines 3-5 merely states that a session identifier 38a is generated by a printer 14 and stored in a table 40 of a disk drive 30.

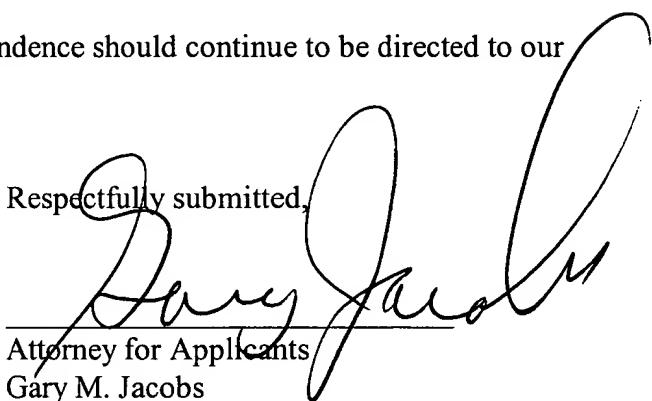
Since the patent to Wiegley is not understood to disclose or suggest at least one feature of Claims 4 and 14, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over this patent. And since independent Claim 17 is a program claim that corresponds to method Claim 14, it is allowable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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